

# MARRICKVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY INC.

DULWICH HILL ENMORE LEWISHAM  
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& PARTS OF CAMPERDOWN & NEWTOWN



## OUR NEXT MEETING

**Woollarawarre Bennelong, James Squire and Kissing Point: talk by Dr Peter Mitchell**  
**Saturday 23 August 10.15 for 10.30 am\***  
**Herb Greedy Hall, 79 Petersham Road Marrickville**

January 2013 was the 200th Anniversary of the death of Woollarawarre Bennelong. Who was this man? He was born in 1764 and brought to Sydney town in 1789 following an order by Governor Arthur Phillip, who hoped to learn more of native customs and language. Bennelong took to life in the white man's colony, ate their food, acquired a taste for alcohol, learned to speak English and became particularly attached to the governor in whose house he resided. Governor Phillip later took him to England.

Dr Mitchell will tell us about Bennelong and the story of finding his grave site; and will outline the tale of James Squire, Australia's first commercial brewer. And yes, the subjects are linked.



*Believed to be Bennelong*  
(William Westall, 1802, © NLA an4562309)

Dr Peter Mitchell studied geology at RMIT, worked on the Snowy Mountains scheme and searched for gold mines in the Northern Territory. After getting his doctorate he became the Head of Physical Geography at Macquarie University. In retirement, he has been an environmental consultant, has taught environmental science and volunteered on numerous conservation projects. As a member of Ryde Council's Heritage Advisory Committee he ferrets out historic trivia to try and better understand where we have all come from.

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\* After the talk we will have a brief ceremony to formally launch the **Oral History Project 1999-2002 conversion to CD** followed by light refreshments. Some of those involved with the project will be present.

The August-October 2014 National Trust (NSW) magazine contains an article by heritage consultant Dr Donald Ellsmore titled 'Millers Point: Selling a public legacy' (p. 3) which broadly has serious implications for heritage management by governing bodies. Space precludes reproducing the article in full:

Millers Point is a priceless example of an historic harbour-side residential precinct surviving largely intact in the shadow of a high-rise global city. It is still possible to wander its streets and back lanes and experience a sense of the history of the place, with its unique blend of historic buildings, quaint authentic details and a strong connection with the working harbour. All this is threatened by the looming spectre of a glittering emperor's playground at Barangaroo and the displacement of families whose forebears provided the labour that made Sydney a great maritime city. It would be a travesty if the authentic character of the area is swept away in a tide of misguided makeovers of the kind that have occurred there since 2008.

The decision by the NSW Government to sell nearly 300 homes and displace almost 400 Millers Point residents has sent shock waves through the community, including some who were born there or whose families have lived there since the earliest days of settlement. The earlier decision by the former Labor Government to sell 99-year leases in the area, combined with the latest Coalition Government decision, reveal **how poorly equipped the State is to effectively manage the heritage values of the historic Millers Point precinct.**

Why is this happening? Why is it not possible to see beyond the immediate real estate value of the area and consider how its tired but dignified character actually contributes a great deal to the economy and appeal of the global city of Sydney? **How is it possible that elected decision makers fail to see that the derisory return after costs of the sale of these properties will be soon frittered away, yet the sales will cause the irretrievable loss of the authentic character of an area greatly loved and admired by the majority of Australians and tourists alike – the birthplace of the nation?** The answer must lie in diminished support for heritage today. Indeed, support for the cultural environment has declined precipitously since the Global Financial Crisis.

**The current condition of publicly owned heritage estates in Millers Point, Woolloomooloo and Glebe demonstrates that the NSW Government is a poor manager of historic housing . . .** The Government fails to live up to the very standards and conditions that it expects of private owners . . . It is not necessary to invent a new model. Neither is it wise to ignore the evidence of past mistakes. Diversity is what makes cities great . . . Old buildings have values that transcend the modern . . . It is essential that heritage processes are diligently observed so that future changes to places are well informed and properly monitored . . . **The values of housing for the full spectrum of the community should be maintained. To achieve this outcome the NSW Government will need to reverse its decision to sell whole-sale, and empower its social housing and heritage agencies to do their job and work collaboratively to achieve a better outcome for the community, the place and the nation.**



## President's Annual Report for the MHS 30th AGM (28 June 2014)

Members will recall last year I presented my President's Report via Skype (internet connection using both telephones and video cameras). You should have been able to hear and see me as I read the report. I could see and hear you in the USA but I'm told my voice dropped out a few times here in Marrickville. My thanks to Vice President Lorraine Beach, Ian Phillips and all the others involved in setting up the Skype equipment. This year I have once again been overseas but got home for today's 30<sup>th</sup> AGM. I have visited the United States, again, and the Middle East on a long-looked-forward-to-trip to Israel, Jordan and Egypt.

The highlight of the visit to Israel was the city of Beersheba (formerly in Palestine), a three hour bus journey south from Jerusalem through the desert. It was to see the new park and memorial to the soldiers of the Australian Light Horse Brigade and the horses who made the charge which led to the capture of Beersheba in 1917, and the eventual capture of the city of Jerusalem. Not even Richard the Lionheart (1157-1199) had achieved that. The charge led to the defeat of the Turkish Army in World War I. Many of the Australians in the charge were young men who rode their ponies to capital cities in order to enlist. They were forced to shoot their horses at the end of the conflict to save them from a terrible death at the hands of the Turks. My visit was a very moving experience.

I was fortunate to find a window of opportunity between the Marrickville Medal presentation and the AGM to fly overseas. Sadly, this meant missing the launch of *Heritage 14* to mark our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. My congratulations to the article authors, the advertisers and the 24 sponsors, whose payments and donations allow us to present one copy free to each current MHS membership. My thanks also must go to Richard Blair, the editor, to Lorraine Beach for her outstanding design and layout, to Pamela Stewart and Richard Blair for the advertising, and to Hillary Goldsmith for the meticulous care taken in proofreading the manuscripts and the final proofs. Last, but not least, my thanks to the local Marrickville firm, Print Portal Australia P/L for getting the printing done in time. When I left for overseas I did not think it would be possible. Thanks everyone on our Committee for a massive effort.

This 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is an opportunity to look back on the achievements of the last 30 years and to look forward to the challenges of the future. A brief summary of our activities in 2013-14:

July: Dulwich Hill walk with Chrys Meader; August: The spirit of the Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation: a talk by Ron Ringer; September: Touring the past: tourism and history in Australia 1850 to 2010 – a talk by Assoc. Professor Richard White at Macleay Museum, University of Sydney; October: Crossing the Blue Mountains: not just Blaxland, Lawson and Wentworth – talk by Dr Christine Yeats; November: The works of John Verge: an illustrated talk by Ross Berry; November: A tour of the Sydney Trades Hall with Neale Towart; November: Pot Luck Christmas Dinner hosted by the President; February: Alexander Brodie Spark and Frances Maria Spark of Tempe House: a talk by Dr Robert Brodie Spark (How many other historical societies could claim to have a direct link to the medieval Kings of England?); March: Thirtieth Anniversary picnic at Petersham Park – guest speaker Andrew Tink eloquently portrayed the life of William Charles Wentworth whose estate became Petersham Park; April: The history of flooding in Marrickville Valley and the Cooks River with Bob Baker and Liz Story from Marrickville SES; May: Addison Road Army Camp walking tour with Sue Castrique and Graham Chalcraft.

Several MHS members attended the RAHS Annual Conference at Katoomba in November where Ian Phillips received the Certificate of Achievement. At the May 2014 Marrickville Medal presentation, Bob Horton received the Special Achievement Award presented by Marrickville Council.

In Heritage Watch, the Society made a submission to the White Paper for a new planning system for New South Wales as well as a submission to Council for the Southern Areas of Marrickville Heritage Study Review.

Our other activities included the publication of 11 monthly newsletters, the dynamic MHS blog conducted by Deborah O'Donnell, and the long saga of the Winged Victory Memorial which will be replaced by a new statue and garden area outside Marrickville Town Hall. On the fourth Saturday of November we plan to hold a MHS bus trip for members to preview the new World War I galleries at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.\*

We look forward to the Centenary of Gallipoli commemorations and all the other activities planned for 2014-15.

Geoff Ostling President

\* The AWM has since advised the galleries won't be ready in time so this tour is postponed: more anon.



Above: Newington emblem – heraldic Wyvern on stained glass windows; at right: MHS members in entrance to the Founders Building on Newington College tour with leader David Roberts at top right. Ross's account on opposite page. (photos: Ross Berry)





## Our Last Meeting: Newington College tour

The light rain did not dampen enjoyment of the MHS tour of Newington College on Saturday 26 July led by school archivist **David Roberts** (author of the article in the recently published *Heritage* 14). First stop was the attractive 1874 sandstone chapel which stands in the north western corner of the college grounds near Stanmore Road, and which pre-dates the arrival of Newington College to Stanmore. The adjacent 1883 Methodist Church was demolished in 1974 and later became a carpark. Nearby stands the Le Couteur Centre (named after former Headmaster Philip Le Couteur), emblazoned with the Wyvern, a two-legged dragon that the college adopted as its college crest in the late 1890s. The 1984 chapel is a modern building which can accommodate 300 people and a choir of 30.

Next to the 1963 Centenary Hall, built to commemorate the centenary of Newington College, stands the lovely garden war memorial (with sundial) designed by Old Newingtonian and celebrated architect William Hardy Wilson (subject of a *Heritage* 9 article by Peter Swain) dedicated to 'Our Beloved Dead' of World War I. Nearby stands a bell originally at Newington House in Silverwater. Thence the imposing 1876-81 sandstone Founders Building, Newington's signature edifice designed by Thomas Rowe with its tower, widows walk and clock. It still impresses the viewer despite the southern wing never being built.

Inside the Founders Building to view the memorial of names for those alumni who served and/or made the ultimate sacrifice during World War I. We ascended the grand stairs (rebuilt and relocated from the original staircase), where we found a beautiful 'bespoke' carpet emblazoned with the Wyvern college crest at the entrance to the Prescott Hall. Inside, the magnificent vaulted ceiling, at either end of the hall beautiful stained glass windows and along the walls portraits of former headmasters including Michael Smee (1993-2003, also a MHS member), who was on our tour.

Up to the second floor to visit the Archives Exhibition Room opened in 2012 and named in honour of Rev. Dr Peter Swain, who promoted and preserved the College archives for over 30 years. We viewed items from the 151 year history of Newington College including historic photographs, sporting awards and blazers along with the former prefects' room door which was inscribed (and carved) with the names of numerous prefects in the 1960s and 1970s. Not on view are an additional 1000 or so items of memorabilia.

Then past a range of more modern buildings - one housing a large indoor swimming pool - adjacent to the Johnson and Buchanan sports ovals (one with its two-sided grandstand servicing two grounds) where a soccer game between Newington and Sydney Grammar was in progress. Memories flooded back to 40 years ago when, as a Shore boy, I played rugby against Newington, though I cannot recall who won!

Near the east gate, we saw the two residences, including the Deputy Headmasters house, originally the 19th century Parsonage which housed the chaplain until 1980. The nearby tennis courts stand where the mansion *Sevington* was until demolished in the 1970s. The sun shone brightly by tour's end as Geoff thanked David Roberts for hosting this fascinating tour.

**Ross Berry**

## Vale Harry Stone

Born **Henry Charles William Stone**, we all knew him as Harry, and saluted him and his wife Del in 1997 when they refused to sell their house to the Commonwealth Government during the Sydenham land grab (due to aircraft noise) which ripped the heart out of this small suburb. Harry saw no reason to leave the house he'd occupied for most of his life. On hearing the land behind was to become a park he said, 'I gain a big yard and don't have to cut the lawn!'

Harry died on 23 July aged 93. Ian Philips had the privilege of interviewing Harry in 2001 during the Society's oral history project. Ian found, as often happens, some of the best bits would come out after the tape recorder was switched off. The interview transcript appeared in *Heritage* 13 (2010). Ian still marvels that Harry rode his chestnut pony to (Tempe Public) school and at age 14 would ride to Vicars Woollen Mills with a roll of mesh wire to be used for conveyor belts. Several members will recall in the 1990s visiting Harry's garage which still contained equipment (used for making chain wire) along with his FJ Holden that he proudly kept in running order.

We knew that Harry and Del married later in life (1970) but at the funeral we learnt that their romance dated back to when Harry was 21. They both cared for aging parents for many years, so they had a very long engagement. Our sincere condolences to Del.

**Richard Blair**



*Harry Stone (Glebe & Inner West Weekly 27/10/99)*

## Vale Beryl Winter

After joining the Society in 1997 Beryl often attended meetings sometimes asking testing questions. She was awarded the Centenary Medal in 2003 for 'services to [the] trade union movement and women's equality' and, as indicated in the October 2005 newsletter, won third prize in the 2005 Jane Austen Society of Buenos Aires writing competition. Beryl died 10 July aged 94.

Anthony Albanese MP told Parliament (14 July):

'Beryl was a life member of the ALP; a former drama teacher; employee of Film Australia, the ABC and Sydney Festival; volunteer with 2RPH radio for the blind; member of Marrickville Heritage Society; and the wife of the former member of the ACTU executive and Conciliation and Arbitration Commissioner, Terry Winter, who was also a life member of the ALP before his passing. Beryl brought light and love into the lives of many people in my local community.'

Our condolences to Beryl's family.



## Calendar of Events

**Saturday 23 August**

**Dr Peter Mitchell on Bennelong's gravesite,  
James Squire & Kissing Point**

Details on front page

**Saturday 27 September**

**Enmore walk with Geoff Ostling**

**Saturday 25 October**

**Newtown Ejectment Case with Matt Murphy**

### **Winged Victory: Capturing the memory Marrickville Library exhibition 3-14 September (a History Week event)**

The Marrickville War Memorial was unveiled before a large crowd on 24 May 1919. The memorial recorded the names of the soldiers from the Marrickville municipality who lost their lives in WWI. Using images and items from the Marrickville History Collection and Council Archives, this display highlights the role Marrickville Council played in recording the memory of these soldiers and giving some comfort to grieving families.

### **Marrickville Public School turns 150**

Congratulations to Marrickville Public School, Chapel Street which celebrates its 150th anniversary on Wednesday 13 August from 9.30 am to 2 pm. Activities include: Principal's welcome, morning tea, history presentation, street parade, international flavours lunch, bush dancing, nostalgic music performed by school choir, placement of time capsule. Come along.

### **Fred Knowles: Can anyone help?**

Cartoonist Lindsay Foyle is trying to find information about Fred Knowles: 'who may have grown up in Narrabri before becoming a vaudeville entertainer. Well known in Australian theatrical and journalistic circles early last century, he worked with actor Marshall Crosby as an entertainer before World War I and served as a private with either the 23rd Battalion or the 3rd COS. In 1918 the NSW Bookstall co-published a book of his cartoons relating to serving in the Army called *With the Dinkums*. After the war he did a little cartooning and in 1924 was a founding member of the Society of Black and White Artists (now the Australian Cartoonists' Association) and became the advertising manager of Smith's Weekly, possibly in the 1930s. He may have lived in Stanmore in the 1940s but details of what happened to him are hard to find.'

If you can help, contact Lindsay (02) 9560 9202 or <lindsay44@optusnet.com.au>.

The August 2011 newsletter featured a story on the Newtown hardware business Quartlys which had operated on King Street since 1896. The business was still owned by a Quartlys descendant and had traded as **Quartlys Mitre 10** since the early 1990s. In 2011 the store downsized and relocated to the rear annexe.

This age-old Newtown store recently closed - to quote TS Eliot - 'not with a bang but a whimper'.

### **Beynon & Hayward, 6 Livingstone Rd Petersham**

**MHS letter to Council:** 'The Society strongly supports the Council officer's recommendation for the Heritage Listing of this 1886 building. The report confirms that the historic associations of the site, and the unique building form warrant heritage protection. The Society has advocated for protection of this building since 2009, when it was proposed that Council buy and demolish it for a car park. The now revived Majestic Theatre in Petersham is a fantastic example of how a rundown 'eyesore' can be saved with some imagination and skill.

'We call on Councillors to accept the recommendation of their expert staff, the National Trust and the Australian Institute of Architects, and protect the Beynon & Hayward building as an item of local Heritage significance under the Marrickville LEP.'

At a July Council meeting, councillors voted 6-6 with the motion being defeated by the casting vote. One councillor, who voted in favour of listing was reported as saying, '**it's not for councillors to decide what buildings are important; it's for councillors to take the advice of heritage experts, and they are saying strongly this building is important**'. After a rescission motion the matter returns to Council this month.

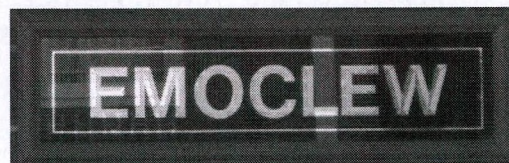
**Scott MacArthur**

### **Development of old Marrickville Hospital site**

Sound familiar? Over recent years this newsletter has devoted considerable space to Council proposals and seeking members' views. It's on again, and they are said to be 'getting to the business end of resolving' the future of this site. It begs such questions as how much was spent on previous such endeavours! To have your say go to <[www.yoursaymarrickville.com.au](http://www.yoursaymarrickville.com.au)> but lodge your submission by 20 August.

### **A Marrickville cricket history book**

On 1 April 1944 nearly 9000 spectators packed Marrickville Oval to see Marrickville Cricket Club, captained by Ron Sagers, narrowly beat St George Cricket Club, captained by Bill O'Reilly, in one of the most exciting grade matches of the era. A new book by Lyall Gardner, Lawrence Daly and Ronald Cardwell is titled *Marrickville's grandest day: the final match - Sydney's grade cricket season 1943-44* (\$30 plus postage). Contact <[cardwell@mcks.com.au](mailto:cardwell@mcks.com.au)> or 9894 7326; website <[cricketpublish.com](http://cricketpublish.com)>. All authors have had long cricket associations. Cardwell has written or published 25 books on cricket; Daly's father was veteran local federal MP the late Fred Daly.



House name in Perry Street, Marrickville. Not sure if one is meant to enter the house backwards! (photo: Richard Blair)

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